(d) whether the Government have considered other alternative Hydro Electric Project of identical capacity within the country;

(e) whether the Government has satisfied itself that the Pancheswar project enjoys advantages surperior to alternative projects in India; and

(f) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. India and Nepal had signed a Treaty on the Mahakali river on 29th January 1996. The Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty was exchanged during the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in June, 1997. The Mahakali Treaty has come into force from 6.6.1997. A power exchange agreement was executed by the Secretary (Power) on behalf of Government of India in February, 1996.

The Mahakali Treaty envisages construction of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on the river Mahakali which will be a source of surplus power. The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project envisages construction of a storage dam, two underground power houses on either bank of the river. The project would be implemented in a phased manner and has a potential of about 6000 MW. However, a re-regulating structure would be required for exploiting the full power potential. A Detailed Project Report is under preparation.

A portion of Nepal's share of energy shall be sold to India. The quantum of such energy and its price shall be mutually agreed upon between the Parties.

(b) The estimated cost of the project as per the project report prepared by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the installed capacity of 6480 MW is Rs. 9170 crores (1 US$ = Rs. .35) including transmission based on April, 1996 price level.

(c) Both the parties i.e. India and Nepal shall jointly endeavour to mobilise the finance required for the implemention of the project after the preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report.

(d) to (f) Studies are being carried out in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on power expansion model for the period (2011-2012 AD) when Pancheshwar Project is likely to yield benefits. In the studies all the existing sanctioned and ongoing and CEA cleared projects and all feasible hydroelectric projects upto the year 2012 have been taken into consideration. The result of the studies indicate that Pancheshwar power with the proposed tentative installation of 6000 MW is a cheaper alternative to the combination of coal based thermal and Open Cycle Gas Turbine plants or the combination of coal based thermal and pumped storage plants.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Projects of U.P.

1371. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several drinking water projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for special assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such projects in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh which have recently been completed?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A World Bank assisted project for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation covering 1000 villages in 15 Hill and Bundalkhand districts of Uttar Pradesh is under implementation at a total project cost of US$ 71 million and the same is expected to be completed by 2002 A.D.

Encouragement to Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Bihar

1372. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far to encourage the non-conventional energy sources in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) the total amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the achievements made in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government make evaluation in this regard from time to time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the results of last evaluation made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes to generate and utilise non-conventional energy such as; the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), the setting up of Biogas plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass Gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumps for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power